

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NGA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 PA-01

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DRAFTED BY CU/EA:MZINOMAN:NB

APPROVED BY CU:LSTULL

CU/EA:RNICHOLS

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TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262140

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

OBJECTS AND CURATORS FOR CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION
ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON FROM TORONTO ON NOVEMBER 25 AND SHOW
IS NOW BEING UNPACKED AND INSTALLED AT NATIONAL GALLERY.
IN GENERAL, ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 10 OPENING APPEAR ON
TRACK.

ONLY OUTSTANDING REMAINING PROBLEM CONCERNS PERSISTENT
EFFORTS BY PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH CH'I-MEI (IN CONTACTS
WITH CU/EA AND NATIONAL GALLERY) TO GAIN ASSURANCE THAT
JOURNALISTS FROM CERTAIN "OFFENSIVE" COUNTRIES, INCLUDING
ISRAEL, SOUTH KOREA, AND SOUTH AFRICA BE DENIED ACCESS
TO DECEMBER 10 PRESS PREVIEW. GALLERY AND DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD PRCLO THAT THIS NOT POSSIBLE IN THE
UNITED STATES, ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT HAS ASSURED CHINESE
THAT PROBLEM OF PRESENCE OF JOURNALISTS FROM TAIWAN WOULD
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NOT ARISE. FYI: THIS ASSURANCE BASED ON DISCREET DISCUS-

SIONS WITH ROC JOURNALISTS WHO APPEARED ANXIOUS TO AVOID
HASSLE. END FYI.

PRCLO HAS SAID THAT IF US SIDE COULD NOT PROVIDE
ASSURANCES THAT JOURNALISTS FROM "OFFENSIVE" COUNTRIES
WOULD NOT ATTEND, THEN GALLERY WOULD HAVE TO ISSUE
INDIVIDUAL INVITATIONS TO PRESS EXCLUDING SUCH REPORTERS

FROM LIST. GALLERY HAS REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD VIOLATE
ITS POLICY OF ISSUING GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREVIEWS
TO PRESS. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL POINTED OUT TO CHINESE
THAT DEVIATION FROM NORMAL PRACTICE MIGHT LEAD TO
PUBLICITY SERIOUSLY ADVERSE TO SHOW AND ALL PARTIES CON-
NECTED WITH IT.

SITUATION NOW A STALEMATE, WITH TIME RUNNING OUT AND
GALLERY ANXIOUS TO MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESS
PREVIEW. CHINESE HAVE NOT MADE EXPLICIT THREATS TO CAN-
CEL PREVIEW AND DEPARTMENT REMAINS HOPEFUL IN THE GAME OF
CHICKEN THAT PRC, HAVING BEEN ASSURED ON NON-ATTENDANCE
OF JOURNALISTS FROM TAIWAN, WILL BACK AWAY FROM ITS
"OFFENSIVE" COUNTRIES DEMAND. INGERSOLL

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